

Delta Independent Science Board Educational Briefing Questionnaire

Please provide short written responses to the following:

1. Program Title: State Water Resource Control Board Bay-Delta Program
2. Lead Agency/Department for Program: State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board)
3. Brief Description of Program: The Bay-Delta program develops the information and documents needed for the State Water Board to adopt and implement the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta Plan)
4. Purpose and Objectives of Program: The State Water Board's Bay-Delta Program facilitates the development and review of plans and policies to protect beneficial uses of the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Bay-Delta) pursuant to the California Water Code and federal Clean Water Act. The Bay-Delta Program also facilitates water right activities related to the Bay-Delta, including implementation of the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan through water right requirements. The Bay-Delta Program resides in the Division of Water Rights because of the critical importance of flow objectives in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Bay-Delta. The Bay-Delta Program also oversees implementation of the State Water Board's and Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Boards' (Water Boards) 2008 Strategic Workplan for Activities in the Bay-Delta, including long-term coordination of Water Board activities through the Water Boards' Bay-Delta team. The workplan is available at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/element_actions/
5. Timeline for Program Objectives: The State Water Board's current priority action in this program is to develop and adopt: 1) flow objectives in the San Joaquin River to protect fish and wildlife beneficial uses; and 2) water quality objectives (including salinity) in the southern Delta to protect agricultural beneficial uses, by June 2012. Timelines are currently being developed for the development, adoption, and implementation of other Delta flow objectives.
6. Current Status of Program: The next milestone for the adoption of San Joaquin River flow and southern delta water quality objectives is release of a draft Bay-Delta Plan amendment report and supporting environmental documentation in December 2011, followed by a workshop in February 2012.
7. Contact Information for Lead Staff of this Program:

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Title	Assistant Deputy Director for Water Rights
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8. Associated Total Annual Budget for Program: FY 11/12 budget is \$1.3 million for staff and \$776,000 for contracts. This is the budget for only Bay-Delta planning activities in the Division of Water Rights. It does not include the budget for water quality and other work performed by the Regional Water Quality Control Boards and other Divisions at the State water resources Control Board.
9. URL, if a Website is Available:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/

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10. How does adaptive management play a role in your program? The utility of adaptive management in this program is described in the draft modifications to San Joaquin River flow objectives for the protection of fish and wildlife beneficial uses as contained in the State Water Board's April 1, 2011 Revised Notice of Preparation and Notice of Additional Scoping Meeting:

"The narrative San Joaquin River flow objective is to be implemented through water right actions, water quality actions, and actions by other agencies in an adaptive management framework informed by required monitoring, special studies, and reporting. The purpose of the implementation framework is to achieve the narrative San Joaquin River flow objective by providing more natural flow conditions, including more flow of a more natural spatial and temporal pattern; providing for adaptive management in order to respond to changing information on flow needs and to minimize water supply costs; and allowing for and encouraging coordination and integration of existing and future regulatory processes."

The draft language for the flow objectives and the program of implementation to achieve these objectives provides more detail on how adaptive management would be applied in this program. The notice with this draft language is available at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/bay_delta/bay_delta_plan/water_quality_control_planning/

11. Any additional information that would be helpful to understand the program:

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire. Please return your completed questionnaire to Gina Ford (gina.ford@deltacouncil.ca.gov) no later than October 6, 2011.